Remarks:

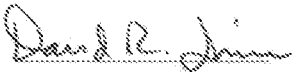
Applicant's independent claim 1 now stands rejected under 35 USC 102(e) in view of Bates, et al (US 6,810,402).

Applicant's claim 1has as a limitation of "a search system control section that determines a display manner of the keyword ***before the search is performed***;" (emphasis added). "Therefore, before starting the search, it is possible to add or substitute a new keyword" (Applicant's specification, paragraph 058).

In contrast to Applicant's invention, Bates performs the search itself before returning occurrences data back to an originating browser (Bates, abstract; also Bates, col. 7, lines 39-53). Thus, Bates cannot enable a user to judge the effectiveness of a keyword before performing a database search for occurrences of that keyword. Applicant believes this to be a fundamental difference.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully holds that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 102 is improper, and that claim 1 is patentable subject matter. Claims 2-6 depend on claim 1. Applicant holds that since claim 1 is patentable, so then are claims 2-6. Consequently, Applicant believes that claims 1-6 are allowable, and respectfully asks the Examiner to allow these claims. Applicant sincerely thanks Examiner, and requests that the application now pass to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

David R. Irvin
Reg. No. 42,682